

the quality of life for current and future generations.

The ICCD and its dedicated employees and volunteers use education, technical assistance, and partnerships with local businesses to work toward a prosperous sustainable future.

Today, the ICCD implements a wide variety of projects dealing with agricultural land preservation, environmental education, and wildlife management. All these efforts have helped to teach the importance of conservation to residents of all ages in Indiana County.

The ICCD formally celebrated their 75th anniversary on October 7 with an open house at their headquarters in Indiana, Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Indiana County Conservation District on 75 years of protecting the environment and ensuring that Indiana County continues to be a great place to live.

□ 1015

HONORING TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Transgender Awareness Week.

Each and every day, our trans friends and neighbors fight to make their voices heard, to demand their basic human rights, and to live free from increasing dehumanizing and hateful attacks. Their spirit and fight deserve to be celebrated this week and every week.

Madam Speaker, we stand with the trans community and join their fight to live openly and authentically without fear of discrimination. We also must not ignore the horrific violence targeting the trans community.

Sunday marks Transgender Day of Remembrance as we honor the at least 32 transgender or gender-nonconforming Americans who have been killed this year and commit to doing all in our power to end this bigoted violence.

As co-chair of the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus' Transgender Equality Task Force, I will never stop working to uplift the voices and visibility of trans Americans and shine the light on injustices this community faces.

To my friends in the trans community, I want to let you know that you are seen, you are heard, and you have allies here in Congress.

REOPEN THE CAPITOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, today, I am here to talk about reopening the very building in which we stand, the United States Capitol.

It has been 2½ years since Speaker PELOSI closed the people's House and told Americans it was part of our united effort to stop COVID-19. Over the last year, we have seen a sharp decline in hospitalizations and deaths from COVID. In fact, just 2 months ago, President Biden even declared the pandemic was over. Yet, certain protocols remain from the height of the pandemic.

Today, when constituents come to visit my office, they need to be personally escorted around by staff. They have to be a small group. They can't go to the House gallery to watch votes take place, and my staff is only allowed to give a tour once a week.

If the Speaker is really trying to prevent the spread of COVID, why is she forcing people to gather in large crowds around security checkpoints?

This is the people's House, yet we continue to deny access to the people, the very people who elected us to serve them, the very people whose taxes fund our operations.

Because of these regulations, I have had to turn several of my constituents away. Not only do these regulations make it difficult to welcome every group into my office, but it also affects the function of all House offices.

I have multiple visitors a day, and each time they come in, I have to send one of my staffers to find that visitor in a crowd of people, wait in a long security line, and then escort them through the House office buildings. It is inefficient and takes staff away from the valuable work they should be doing on behalf of the people of Arkansas.

To top it all off, none of this makes any sense. Why does one of my staffers need to escort someone who has already been cleared by security into the building? How does this protect against COVID-19? What is so dangerous about allowing visitors the ability to watch their government function? How can we claim to be a transparent government when we prohibit access to their elected officials?

It is far past time to truly open up the Capitol to the people and restore its operation to prepandemic times. We cannot afford to keep distance between the American people and their elected Representatives.

These regulations prevent constituents from freely visiting their Representatives and hinder productivity in our offices, and none of it makes us any safer.

The people are an important part of the legislative process. In fact, they are the reason for it. Madam Speaker, they should be welcomed here.

INVESTING IN ZERO-EMISSION SHIPPING TECHNOLOGIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, it was an honor to join Speaker PELOSI

with the congressional delegation to Egypt to the United Nations' annual climate conference, COP27.

Our bottom-line message to world leaders: America is all in to fight the climate crisis. We stand with our global partners to reduce emissions, go green, and meet our goals under the Paris climate agreement.

Shipping emissions is one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases in the world. Congress has acted with the Inflation Reduction Act. Record climate investments are included in the IRA to accelerate our transition to a clean energy future. That includes a \$3 billion investment from my bill, the Climate Smart Ports Act, to reduce emissions from ports across the country.

As someone who represents the Port of Los Angeles, I know firsthand the work we must do to go zero emissions and commit with other countries to reduce shipping emissions through the Green Shipping Challenge.

To get there at the speed and scale necessary, it is critical that Congress invest in zero-emission shipping technologies and provide the EPA with the resources to regulate emissions from ships.

Working together, we can exceed our 2030 emissions reduction target and take collective action to save our planet.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. During this month, we honor the millions of Americans living with Alzheimer's, including my mom, along with selfless family members and caregivers.

The nearly 6 million people with Alzheimer's are our sisters, our brothers, our parents, our grandparents, our neighbors, and our fellow Americans.

This epidemic will only continue to grow. In the next 30 years, the number of Americans with Alzheimer's is expected to reach nearly 14 million.

Fortunately, we are at an inflection point in scientific progress where life-changing treatments may become available, but they also need to be affordable, and we need to continue to invest in research.

That is why I am introducing a bill this month to improve access to new, innovative Alzheimer's treatments that become available. I will continue to work with CMS to ensure all drugs receive fair and accurate consideration for Medicare coverage.

Our fight against this heartbreaking disease is nowhere near done.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Family Caregivers Month. Today, more than one in five Americans provide care to someone with health or functional needs.

Caregivers are the backbone of our families and communities. They are

our coworkers, siblings, parents, grandparents, and neighbors.

Their service and sacrifice for our families and country are essential and immeasurable work, but their contributions are often overlooked and undervalued.

Caregiving requires time, money, resources, and patience. It can take a toll on a caregiver's physical and mental health.

As a caregiver for my own mom, I want every family caregiver to know that you are not alone, that we are in this with you. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. You deserve to feel celebrated.

We must do more to ensure that you have the support that you need. You have a champion in Congress who will fight for higher wages and better benefits for you.

We must continue to invest in programs like IHSS and WPCS so that our elders can stay home and have the dignity to be in their homes in their later years and be taken care of.

Thank you again to all the caregivers out there for everything you do.

HONORING LEWIS SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Staff Sergeant Lewis Smith, affectionately known as Slugger and also very affectionately known as the Mayor of Washington Mills, who recently passed away at the age of 99.

Lew was born in Washington Mills, New York, in 1922 and graduated from Sauquoit Valley Central School in 1940.

After the terrible attacks on Pearl Harbor, Lew immediately signed up to fight for our country in the United States Air Force, with what at the time was known as the 13th Army Air Corps 307th Bombardment Group in the South Pacific.

A member of the Greatest Generation, Lew honorably served our country in World War II, completing 50 combat missions in the South Pacific with, as I said, the 13th Army Air Corps 307th Bombardment Group.

He wrote a wonderful book chronicling his experience in the war, which I highly recommend to everyone who is interested in finding out what it was really like to just be an average member of the Air Force, enlisting and learning and growing and sacrificing.

After the war, Lew came home to Washington Mills and married the love of his life, Jane, on May 5, 1945, after moving to Denver to complete Lew's military service.

The couple moved back to Washington Mills, where they would live together for 76 years until Jane's passing in 2021.

Upon moving back to Washington Mills, Lew worked as a welder for Utica Structural Steel before taking over his father-in-law's service stations with

his two sons. Later, Lew would take on positions as a maintenance man for the town of New Hartford highway and police departments.

On top of his service as a mechanic, Lew also served our community as one of the founding members of the Willowvale Fire Company Inc., serving since 1950, and as the leader of the Clonan Post 1000 American Legion.

Lew was a wonderful person, a dear friend, and a tremendous community servant. I thank him and his family for their friendship and for the lifetime of service and commitment to our community by the entire family.

He was truly a special gem in our community like no other person. Probably my greatest inspiration, other than my own father, Lew was a person of great integrity, great honesty, who gave wonderful, sage advice to everyone he met. He was also one of the kindest people and one of the most caring, giving people I have met in my life.

I thank him and his family and his wonderful wife, Jane, for all the wonderful times and, actually, great experiences I had and their support of our community and all those people who serve in the fire service and police service and serve our Nation in uniform.

He truly embodied our Greatest Generation, and he is sorely missed by our community.

HONORING EDWARD BRADLEY

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Bradley of Chadwicks, New York, who passed away earlier this week.

Edward was a lifelong resident of the Utica area and dedicated his life to serving our community and his family. He worked for several companies in the area, including James Donovan Roofing and Mohawk Containers, where he worked for 40 years. Incidentally, James Donovan was one of our New York State senators from our region.

On top of his work, Edward was also a 50-year member of the Willowvale Fire Company, where he served previously as president and vice president. He also served as a member of the Oneida County Fire Police and the State director of the New York State Fire Police Association, and he was honored by the Willowvale Fire Company with the very prestigious Ironman Award.

Edward was also a member of the Utica Elks Lodge and was nominated by the United Way of the Mohawk Valley for the 100 Heroes of the Mohawk Valley, recognizing his tremendous and honorable, dedicated service to our community.

Edward, thank you for your lifetime of service, and may your memory continue to be a blessing to all of us and the new generations of people that come after us.

We will never forget your commitment to our region, and your family remains in our thoughts and prayers. Your department is in great hands. They learned from truly the best.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month, a time when the pain and grief of loss should be honored with action, to read the words and the plea of a heartbroken mother and a Pennsylvania 5 constituent, Molly Collington, who lost her son, Sam, to gun violence a year ago on November 28, 2021.

By all accounts, Sam Collington was a remarkable young man who left an outsized impact on our community.

His mother, Molly, shared her story with me earlier this fall when I met with her and her colleagues at Delaware County's Moms Demand Action chapter. I was deeply moved by her advocacy in the face of unimaginable loss and grief, and I am sharing her words with her permission now.

"My name is Molly Collington. I am Sam Collington's brokenhearted mother.

"Sam was the best son any mother could ever ask for. He was kind, smart, reliable, and without a doubt, one of the funniest people to ever walk this Earth.

"Sam was murdered on November 28, 2021. The day began with Sam loading up his father's car with clean laundry, some leftover turkey, and supplies to carry him through the rest of the semester.

"He was returning to his apartment at Temple University after the Thanksgiving weekend. He planned to drop the items off at his apartment, then return home to watch HBO with me, sleep in his own bed, and then take the train back to school Monday morning. That did not happen.

"Because on his street, near his apartment, was a career criminal with an illegal gun waiting to steal the car of the next person that drove down the street. The next person was my Eagle Scout son, Sam. Sam was shot four times and died less than 30 minutes later at Temple Hospital.

"Sam was so knowledgeable about our country and all its history. He knew every single President and could talk for hours about politics. So it was no surprise when he told his father and I that he wanted to study political science at Temple University after high school. His fervor for politics and government started very young. He proudly served as his high school's president for his junior and senior year.

"During his time at Temple, he served as the president of the Political Science Society, never missing an opportunity to make each day count.

"He planned to attend law school and study constitutional law. He was an activist.

"He campaigned for local politicians and interned at city hall where he worked with elections. He was responsible for getting hundreds of people